

Youth Conservation Corps



(back row) Shane Palmira, Kame Warnke, Ronna McKiernan; (front) Justin Baldino & Alisia Lopez (Crew Leader)



Many people are often amazed to learn that people actually live (& work) in Death Valley. Once they've recovered from their initial surprise, one of the most frequently asked questions is, "how do you live out there?" Well, when you consider that summertime temperatures regularly hover in the 110-degree Fahrenheit neighborhood (& have reached as high as 134), this is not an unreasonable question to ask.

Fortunately, every summer Death Valley National Park (DVNP) is able to recruit a handful of dedicated young adults who are willing to work outdoors in this harsh climate. In spite of the many qualities that make DVNP unique, it takes a special breed of people to live & work in this harsh environment.



Moreover, the park expects a lot of its YCC. In return, they gain valuable experience that will aid them in future pursuits. Crew members learn about the National Park Service's conservation heritage and obtain first-hand lessons about the world-of-work. One of these lessons learned is the importance of teamwork. The crew is employed for eight weeks and has multiple projects to complete in this short time period (throughout the 3.3-million-acre park). While tackling projects, crewmembers quickly learn that their individual acts directly affect fellow crew members and either reflect positively or negatively on the crew as a whole.



Death Valley NP is lucky to have a quality YCC this year and we invite you to share in our pride by regularly visiting these YCC WebPages. As the crew completes projects, they will post brief reports describing their accomplishments and how they relate to the overall mission of the National Park Service.

Experience Your America!

-YCC Coordinator

1. YCC & Exotic Plant Crew Chief @ Scotty's Castle
2. Hamming it up on Scotty's Castle grounds
3. Site visit to Manzanar National Historic Site